

4 Terms and Definitions

Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)	Refers to policy, procedures, authorities, and responsibilities for closing or realigning military installations across the Department of Defense. Includes environmental restoration activities.
Baseline Risk Assessment	An analysis of the potential adverse health effects (current or future) caused by contaminant releases from a site in the absence of any actions to control or mitigate these releases.
Cancer Risk	Incremental probability of an individual developing cancer over a lifetime as a result of exposure to a carcinogen.
Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)	CERCLA, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986, establishes a comprehensive framework for identifying, investigating, and cleaning up releases of hazardous substances to the environment. CERCLA authorizes the President to take response actions when a release or the threat of a release is discovered. Through Executive Order 12580, signed in January 1987, the President directs the Secretary of Defense to implement investigation and cleanup measures in consultation with EPA for releases of hazardous substances from facilities under the jurisdiction of the Secretary.
Defense Environmental Restoration Account (DERA)	A transfer account, established by the Defense Appropriation Act of 1984, that funds the Installation Restoration Program for active installations and the Formerly Used Defense Sites Program for formerly owned or used installations. The account also funds the other goals of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program.
Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP)	A program established by Congress in 1984 to evaluate and clean up contamination from past DoD activities (Title 10 U.S. Code 2701-2707 and 2810.)
Defense Site Environmental Restoration Tracking System (DSERTS)	The Defense Site Environmental Restoration Tracking System (DSERTS) is a personal computer program used by installation and command level restoration program managers. It automates collection and reporting of information on sites addressed by the Defense Environmental Cleanup Programs (Installation Restoration and Base Realignment and Closure).
Exposure Point	A location of potential contact between a receptor and a chemical or physical agent.

Feasibility Study (FS)	Based on data collected during the remedial investigation, options for final cleanup actions are developed and evaluated in the FS. The FS is divided into two phases: (1) an initial screening of alternatives, followed by (2) the detailed analysis of alternatives. The detailed analysis considers, among other things, cost-effectiveness, short- and long-term effectiveness, and the overall protection of human health and the environment.
Hazard Quotient	The ratio of a single substance exposure level over a specified time period (e.g., subchronic) to a reference dose for that substance derived from a similar exposure period.
Interim Remedial Action (IRA)	An early response action that may be identified and implemented at any time during the study or design phase. IRAs are limited in scope, and they address only areas or media for which a final remedy will be developed by the RI/FS process. An IRA should be consistent with the final remedy for a site.
Media	Environmental media subject to relative risk evaluation, namely groundwater, surface water, sediment, and soils.
Measures of Merit (MOM)	DoD has developed Measures of Merit (MOMs) to define goals, measure how well these goals are achieved, and assess program effectiveness. MOM #1 sets forth goals for relative risk reduction at sites in DERP over time. MOM #3 tracks the number of sites where cleanup action has been taken and relative risk has been reduced in one or more media.
National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP)	Located at 40 Code of Federal Regulations 300, the NCP establishes EPA's response policy and lays out the key response steps for implementing CERCLA.
No Further Action (NFA)	A no-further-action designation for a site means that response actions are either complete or not required and no additional actions are warranted. A no-further-action decision can be made at different points in the process if data indicate that risks are within acceptable levels.
Not Required (NR)	A site status classification that means that relative risk site evaluation is not required. This classification applies to sites designated "Response Complete" (RC) or all "Remedies in Place" (RIP).
Petroleum, Oil, and Lubricants (POL)	For example, jet fuel, gasoline, and their sludges.

Preliminary Assessment (PA)	A limited-scope investigation designed to distinguish between sites that pose little or no threat to human health and the environment and sites that require further investigation. The PA is typically based on installation record searches, visual site inspections, and interviews of site personnel. It is required at sites listed on the Federal Facility Hazardous Waste Compliance Docket.
Preliminary Remediation Goals (PRGs)	Relative risk PRGs are concentration levels set for individual chemicals that, for carcinogens, correspond to a specific cancer risk level of 1 in 1 million and, for noncarcinogens, correspond to a Hazard Quotient of 1. They are generally selected when Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs) are not available.
RCRA Facility Assessment (RFA)	The first step in the RCRA corrective action process. The RFA acts as a screen, first identifying and then eliminating solid waste management units (SWMUs), environmental media, or entire facilities from further consideration for corrective action. RFAs are performed as part of the RCRA permitting process.
Receptor	A human individual or individuals, ecological population, or sensitive environment subject to, or potentially subject to, the hazard of contaminant exposure. Sensitive environments considered as receptors are listed in Table 2.
Reference Dose (RfD)	An estimated daily exposure level of a contaminant to a human population below which no adverse noncancer health effects are anticipated.
Relative Risk	The grouping of sites in DERP into High, Medium, and Low categories based on an evaluation of site information using three key factors: the contaminant hazard factor (CHF), the migration pathway factor (MPF), and the receptor factor (RF).
Remedial Action (RA)	Involves the construction, operation, and implementation of the final cleanup remedy. Long-term RAs require continued monitoring, operation, and maintenance for a number of years.
Remedial Action Operation (RAO)	A site status classification that applies after all remedies are in place, but before a response complete decision is made.
Remedial Design (RD)	Involves the development of the actual design of the selected cleanup remedy, including preparation of all technical drawings and specifications needed to implement the cleanup action.

Remedial Investigation (RI)	A field investigation that is more extensive than an SI. Its purpose is to characterize the nature and extent of contamination at a site. The RI also assesses the risks posed by on-site contamination to human health and the environment.
Remedies in Place (RIP)	A site status classification that implies that all required removal and/or remedial actions are in place at a site. If a site required a remedial action for contaminated groundwater and a second such action for contaminated soils, both actions would need to be in place (e.g., operating successfully for groundwater and construction completion for soil) at the site before making an RIP designation.
Removal Action	Taken to respond to a release, or threat of a release, of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants so as to prevent, minimize, or mitigate harm to human health or the environment. Such actions may be taken during any phase of the site cleanup.
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)	RCRA, as amended by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984 (HSWA), requires the establishment of a management system for hazardous waste (Subtitle C), non-hazardous solid waste (Subtitle D), and underground storage tanks (Subtitle I). RCRA also provides corrective action authority for cleanup of non-hazardous solid waste management units.
Response Complete (RC)	A “response complete” designation means that a Component deems that no further action is required at the site with the exception of long-term monitoring. A RC determination requires that (1) there is no evidence that contaminants were released at the site, (2) no contaminants other than background levels were detected at the site, (3) contaminants attributable to the site are below action levels used for risk screening, (4) the results of a baseline risk assessment demonstrate that cumulative risks posed by the site are below established thresholds, or (5) removal and/or remedial actions at a site have been implemented, completed, and are the final action for the site.
Restoration Management Information System (RMIS)	A DoD database used to track information on the status and progress of activities at sites in the DERP. It is used to support the Annual Report to Congress and is linked with DSERTS.

Site	A discrete area where contamination has been verified, requiring further response action. By definition, a site has been or will be entered into RMIS. For the Formerly Utilized Defense Sites (FUDS) program, a <i>site</i> is equivalent to a “project” and an <i>installation</i> is equivalent to a “FUDS Property.” Hence, there may be multiple projects on a single FUDS property.
Site Inspection (SI)	Performed if the PA recommends further investigation. SI investigations typically collect waste and environmental samples to determine the hazardous substances present at a site and whether they are being released to the environment.
Slope Factor (SF)	A plausible upper-bound estimate of the probability of a response per unit intake of a chemical over a lifetime. The slope factor is used to estimate an upper-bound probability of an individual developing cancer as a result of a lifetime of exposure to a particular level of a carcinogen.
Source	Area where hazardous substances or petroleum products have been deposited, stored, released, disposed of, or placed.

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK